

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM TOM RESTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY - JULY 11

NO. 2

WIRES

(1) UPI-ANDERSON FROM GENEVA. SECRETARY VANCE ARRIVED TO RESUME SALT TALKS AND CONVEY PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL WARNING THAT THE MOSCOW DISSIDENT TRIALS MAY BADLY DAMAGE U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. IN A DRAMATIC GESTURE DESIGNED TO UNDERSCORE U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE ACCUSED VANCE SCHEDULED A MEETING IN GENEVA WITH THE WIFE OF SHCHARANSKY...SOME INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DENOUNCED THE TRIALS AND JOINED THE RANKS OF LEGISLATORS URGING CARTER TO SUSPEND THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS IN RETALIATION. HE ADMINISTRATION MADE CLEAR IT WILL NOT HEED THAT ADVICE, BUT VANCE WAS MAKING TWO MOVES DESIGNED TO REINFORCE ITS
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PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE DISSIDENTS AND TO SIGNAL THE KREMLIN IT MAY BE ALIENATING AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION TO THE POINT WHERE THE SENATE WILL REFUSE TO RATIFY A NEW SALT TREATY. ONE WAS A VERBAL MESSAGE HE WAS TO CONVEY FROM CARTER TO ...BREZHNEV VIA GROMYKO...THE OTHER ... GESTURE

WAS A PLANNED MEETING WITH AVITAL SHCHARANSKY.

(2) REUTERS-GUTMAN FROM GENEVA. SECRETARY VANCE ARRIVED ...FOR DELICATE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS...IN AN ATMOSPHERE CLOUDED BY THE TREATMENT OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS. THE SECRETARY...COMMENTED ON ARRIVAL: "I HOPE AND EXPECT THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WILL BE USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE." HE SAID THE TRIALS...OF...SCHARANSKY AND ... GINZBURG...WOULD BE BROUGHT UP...WITH MR. GROMYKO, BUT THE CENTRAL FOCUS... WOULD BE REACHING A NEW ARMS LIMITATION TREATY. GROMYKO... SAID: "THE SOVIET SIDE, AS IN THE PAST, IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AS WELL AS OTHERS, USING GOODWILL TO REACH MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD MEET THE OBJECTIVE OF REINFORCING PEACE AND MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS COOPERATION."

(3) NO AFTERNOON AP.

TV

(1) NBC-C;ANCELLOR FROM GENEVA. IN THE MEANTIME, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE MAY MEET WITH SCHARANSKY'S WIFE THIS WEEK IN GENEVA. THE PLACE WHERE VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRE GROMYKO ARE MEETING TO TALK ABOUT A NEW SALT TREATY. JOHN COCHRAN REPORTS FROM GENEVA.

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GROMYKO ARRIVED FIRST. HE HAS DEALT WITH MANY AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN. BUT HE HAS NEVER DEALT WITH ANY ADMINISTRATION LIKE THE PRESENT ONE. THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN BAFFLED BY WHAT THEY CALL THE WEIRD AND UNPREDICTABLE POLICIES OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. GROMYKO READ A BRIEF STATEMENT SAYING LITTLE EXCEPT TO INDICATE THAT NUCLEAR ARMS WILL NOT BE THE ONLY SUBJECT TO BE DISCUSSED IN GENEVA. THE RUSSIANS HAVE SAID THAT THEY HOPE THE MEETINGS WILL SPELL OUT AMERICA'S POLICY TOWARDS THE SOVIETS. TONIGHT SECRETARY VANCE ARRIVED. VANCE SAYS AMERICAN POLICY IS CLEAR. BUT BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON, VANCE CONDEMNED THE TRIALS OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS. BUT VANCE SAYS THAT IS NO REASON TO CANCEL THE GENEVA TALKS ON LIMITING ON LIMITING NUCLEAR ARMS. "I HOPE AND EXPECT THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WILL BE USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH." THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SAYS THAT ITS DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE TALKS HERE DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT PLACES MORE IMPORTANCE ON ARMS CONTROL THAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS. SECRETARY VANCE SAYS THAT THE TWO ISSUES ARE SEPARATE AND SHOULD BE TREATED SEPARATELY.

(2) CBS (KALB FROM GENEVA)

MUDD: SECRETARY VANCE ARRIVED IN GENEVA TODAY FOR HIS TALKS WITH SOVIET F.M. GROMYKO ON A STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT, BUT THE SCHARANSKIY TRIAL WAS ON BOTH THEIR MINDS . . .

KALB: GROMYKO ARRIVED FIRST; VANCE THREE HOURS LATER. AND FROM THEIR CAREFUL ARRIVAL STATEMENTS YOU'D THINK THERE WAS NO SCHARANSKIY TRIAL TEARING AT THE HEART OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, BOTH MINISTERS STRESSING THEIR GOODWILL IN REACHING FOR ANOTHER STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT. BUT THIS WAS ALL EXTRAORDINARILY DECEPTIVE. VANCE INTENDS TO URGE GROMYKO TO GO EASY ON THE SOVIET DISSIDENTS AND TO DRIVE HOME HIS POINT HE HAS SCHEDULED A MEETING HERE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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MRS. AVITAL SCHARANSKIY, THE DISSIDENT'S WIFE, THIS THURSDAY. THE SECRETARY ALSO INTENDS TO TAKE A HARD LINE ON THE SALT TALKS, EMPHASIZING THAT THE U.S. INTENDS TO PRESERVE THE OPTION OF BUILDING EXTRA HOLES FOR ITS LONG-RANGE MISSILES AND THEN MOVING THE MISSILES AROUND SO THE RUSSIANS WILL NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY ARE AT ANY ONE TIME -- A PROGRAM THAT COULD COST AN ESTIMATED \$20 BILLION. VANCE EXPECTS TOUGH TALKS WITH GROMYKO BUT IS STILL HOPEFUL FOR SOME PROGRESS ON DEFINING NEW MISSILE SYSTEMS, ONE OF THE TWO REMAINING OBSTACLES TO A SALT AGREEMENT -- THE OTHER BEING RESTRAINTS ON A LONG-RANGE SOVIET BOMBER CALLED THE BACKFIRE.

(3) ABC (DUNSMORE FROM GENEVA)

SOVIET F.M. GROMYKO ARRIVED IN GENEVA SAYING HE IS HERE TO TALK ABOUT STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AND OTHER ISSUES WITH WHAT HE CALLED GOODWILL. FOR HIS PART, SECRETARY VANCE ARRIVED HOPING IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ON ARMS CONTROL IN SPITE OF THE AGGRAVATED ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY THE DISSIDENT TRIALS. ON THE FLIGHT INTO GENEVA CORRESPONDENTS WERE TOLD THAT, EVEN EXCLUDING THE DISSIDENT ISSUE, THE REMAINING OBSTACLES TO A NEW AGREEMENT ARE VERY TOUGH. THE ONE OUTSTANDING ISSUE ON WHICH THERE COULD BE SOME PROGRESS IS THE ONE DEALING WITH RESTRICTIONS ON THE BUILDING OF BIGGER AND BETTER MISSILE SYSTEMS.

BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TRIALS, SOME U.S. OFFICIALS WERE EXPECTING MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE. NOW THEY ARE NOT SO SURE. THIS MAY IMPLY THAT THE U.S. HAS TOUGHENED ITS POSITION, ALTHOUGH CERTAINLY NO ONE WILL ADMIT THIS.

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WHAT IS CLEAR THAT EVEN AS VANCE INSISTS THAT THERE IS NO LINK BETWEEN THE DISSIDENT TRIALS AND THE ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS, BY AGREEING TO MEET WITH MRS. SCHARANSKIY HERE IN GENEVA ON THURSDAY HE GUARANTEES THAT WORLD ATTENTION WILL BE FOCUSED ON THAT MEETING RATHER THAN THE OUTCOME OF THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS.

(NOTE: ALL THREE TV PIECES PART OF LONG PIECES ON MOSCOW TRIALS, AND ON THE VERY STRONG CONGRESSIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO SAME.)

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